

Picasso at the Lapin Agile Deemed ‘Entertaining’

By Jennifer Ruff, Staff Writer

On the 25, 26, and 27 of January, the Columbian Players brought the Steve Martin play, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* to life on the Saint Joseph's College Arts and Science Building Theatre stage.

The show turned out to be quite a success and the actors kept the audience laughing practically the whole show.

“I thought the show was very entertaining,” said freshman English major Maggie Hall. “It was very funny and amusing. Going to the show seemed almost like a break in life. It was a time where I could relax and do nothing but sit back and enjoy.”

The show featured two famous men from the twentieth century, Einstein, played by junior Math and Theatre major BJ Houlding, and Picasso, played by junior English major Cord Atkinson, meeting in a small bistro in Paris. Already at the Lapin Agile were the bartender Freddy, played by senior History major Andrew Jendraszak, his wife Germaine, played by freshman Political Science major Meagan Anderson, and an old man who was constantly going to the restroom, Gaston, played by sophomore Computer Science major Jason Keller.

During the course of the production, the audience met other characters such as the not-so-modest Schmendiman, played by senior Art major, Andrew McKim, Suzanne, a girl who finds herself madly in love with the romantic styles of Picasso, played by sophomore Psychology

major Heather Madden, Sagot, an art dealer who tells the audience about the two types of paintings that just can't be sold, played by sophomore Theatre major David Santangelo, and a mysterious time traveler with some nice blue suede shoes, played by freshman Chemistry major Roye Robley.

Other actors in the play were senior Chemistry and History major Marcie Keyes, who played Einstein's date the Countess, and freshman Music major Katie Misiak, who played the girl the audience thought also loved Picasso but turned out to be a Schmendiman fan.

“As we look to the next 100 years, what are we on the verge of? Who will be the next Picasso or Einstein?” ~John Rahe

However, the play itself was more than just something to make the viewers laugh.

As Assistant Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts John Rahe stated in his Director's notes, “By showing Einstein and Picasso and contrasting them with Schmendiman, Steve Martin is asking us to look at the future of our own new century. As we look to the next 100 years, what are we on the verge of? Who will be the next Picasso or Einstein? As Picasso says in the play, ‘I hope I am ready when the time comes to do it.’”

The play has enjoyed a long off-Broadway run, winning the Outer Critics Circle Award for

Best Off-Broadway Play, and will soon be made into a major motion picture.

The New York Post described *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* as “highly credible and very funny. The subject matter is daring ... you get giggles in plenty and moments of enlightenment.”

The New York Times called the play “very good fun,” and Newsweek hailed it as “a major treat.”

If you missed this show, make sure you catch the spring musical, *Godspell*, April 12, 13 and 14. *Godspell* will also be held in the SJC Arts and Science Building Theatre. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students, and members of the SJC community are admitted free of charge.



Top: Einstein (junior Math and Theatre major BJ Houlding) contemplates his genius.

Left: Sagot (sophomore Theatre major David Santangelo), an art dealer, tells the audience about the two types of paintings that just cannot be sold. (Photos courtesy of Katherine Stembel)



Hip-Hop 101 Presentation Jan. 22 Off the “Heezy, Fo Sheezy!”

By Mike Koscielny, Staff Writer



DJ Kool Herc is credited by some as the “father” of the hip-hop movement. (Photo courtesy of <http://alphabetiks.com/hip-hop/articles/DJ-Kool-Herc.php>)

The Shen Auditorium is notorious among SJC students as a place to receive boring lectures.

However, on the night of January 22, the Saint Joseph's College Student Union Board (SUB) changed all that. Hip-Hop 101 was a lecture of a completely different magnitude.

“I thought Hip-Hop 101 was funny and very entertaining,” freshman Biology-Chemistry major Anisha Gohil, secretary of SUB, said.

“The two [Hip-Hop 101 performers] had unique personalities and a unique comedy style that I have never seen before. I also think we had a good turnout for a Monday night.”

Almost one hundred students came out to get schooled in “the

ways of hip-hop.” Their act consisted of a PowerPoint presentation about the history of hip-hop, directions on how to rap and what it takes to become an MC.

“It was much more entertaining than Core lectures,” freshman Music major Sarah Wright, also known that evening as “MC Sarah Lee” said. Wright volunteered to get up on stage and become an MC.

The duo put together a smooth barrage of jokes poking fun at the hip-hop culture and pop culture in general. As well as the slapstick humor, other jokes were meant to appeal to a more culturally seasoned crowd.

“I was sold with the Bach joke” Wright said.

The Hip-Hop 101 performers, hailing from Canada, just finished a tour of Australia where they said a lot of their jokes didn’t go over well because of the difference in artist popularity.

The pair enjoyed the show here on campus as it went off almost flawlessly.

“The sound system [in the Shen Auditorium] was not operating properly that night, but the guys made the best of the situation and did a great job,” SUB advisor and Coordinator of Student Activities and Intramural Sports Mark Brouwer said. “You may not be able to tell it from the nature of their comedy show, but they are very accomplished musicians with an extensive resume.”

Many students shared the sentiments that Hip-Hop 101 was different and funny. They expressed how happy they were to see new and exciting event coming to “the Joe.”

“I was extremely pleased with the turnout for Hip-Hop 101, and have been pleased with turnouts for all events this semester,” Brouwer said. “We’re trying to bring some new faces to SJC this semester, and I sincerely hope the students enjoy what we have in store. If students have ideas for events they’d like to see, SUB would love to hear from them. All students are a member of SUB and will be heard if they come to our meetings each Thursday at 5:30 in the Cub Room in the cafeteria.”

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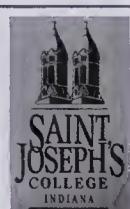
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SJC Economics Students to Conduct Market Analysis of Kentland

By Rebecca Scherer, Publications and Media Relations Director

As college students across the nation headed back to their warm classrooms in January, Saint Joseph's College Economics students donned jackets and gloves and hit the streets. The streets of Kentland, that is. Junior and senior Economics majors at SJC recently began a market analysis of Kentland, Indiana, which is the seat of Newton County and approximately 25 miles southwest of Rensselaer. The study will document the current business environment and identify key economic drivers of the community.

"This is one more example of how we really mean 'hands on' in our Economics and Business programs at SJC," said Associate Professor of Economics and Finance Michael Oakes. "Our Marketing students are in front of real managers with live projects every year," he continued. "Accounting students are at work in CPA firms. Every two years when the Seminar in Applied

Economics rolls around, we plan for students to put their classroom lessons and economic thinking to practical use."

In this case, both students and the people of Kentland expect to benefit. The market analysis is similar to a 2004 study of Rensselaer conducted by Oakes and Economics students. That study was a key component of a successful application for a planning grant by the City of Rensselaer and Main Street Rensselaer.

Marleen Robinson, First Vice President of Kentland Bank and head of the Retail Merchants in Kentland (the sponsoring group), notes that the timing is right for a group to take a look at the town's business environment. She said, "We have a great community here. But like all small towns and cities, it faces constant pressure as the retail and economic situations change. Having a study such as this is an important step as we take control of our future."

Students will survey community members; conduct focus groups of stakeholders; record a census of buildings, spaces, and uses; and update demographic tables. They will also segment businesses by types, evaluate surrounding communities, and identify what they believe are the economic drivers of Kentland.

Oakes explained that one of the biggest benefits to Kentland will be the resulting strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. "Our students will survey much of the literature on local economic development. Believe it or not, towns and individual businesses have found ways to prosper alongside the Wal-Marts and Home Depots of the world. We hope our report can suggest some of the strategies that might make sense for Kentland," he said.

At the same time, Oakes said, the market analysis isn't a plan. "We're studying Kentland and



From left to right are: (back row) Corey Hecht, Mario Leggero, Derek Fasnacht, and Matt Leonardo. (Front row) Matt Springer, Chris Bush, Kyle Barone, and Ron Kasparian.

trying to be thoughtful about what we see. But we are in no position to create a plan or trump the good sense of Kentland's already successful business owners."

Interested community members can view the study at www.saintjoe.edu/kentland.

Early activity will include profiling local businesses and commercial properties as well as a resident survey form available at several locations throughout the community.

Details about the study will be provided on-line on a rolling basis.

Frank the Magician to Visit SJC Feb. 9

By Elizabeth R. Hall, Staff Writer

Hopefully not repeating the relative disappointment from the last show sponsored by the SJC Student Union Board's Thursday Night Programming, comedienne Marianne Sierk, SUB plans to bring in a little magic to spice up SJC early in the month. What could be better than a good laugh after a long week of classes and professors?

Frank the Magician will be gracing SJC with his presence on February 9, and hopefully tickling the student community's funny bone. Note that the usual Thursday Night Programming schedule will be disrupted, and rather than the event falling on a Thursday, it will instead fall on a Friday.



Frank the Magician (Photo courtesy of <http://www.frankthemagician.com/About.html>)

Frank the Magician has been performing for the past ten years. He considers himself a "naturalistic" performer who avoids the use of unusual props. So, as an alternative to the unusual, he would rather stick to using playing cards, ropes, newspapers, bowls, and other ordinary items.

Frank's resume includes performances with the Bindlestiff Family Circus, The Grim Brothers Sideshow, as well as having his own illusion show at a Six Flags Theme Park. In the process of becoming a success with his comedy career, he was able to pay for school and in turn received his theater degree.

For more information, visit <http://www.frankthemagician.com/>. Contact SUB at SUB@saintjoe.edu with any questions, comments, or concerns, or contact any of the SUB officers personally. If you are unable to reach them, the SUB office is located in the Halleck Student Center on the third floor.

The Mystery of Kairos Revealed...Sort Of

By Joe Stewart, Staff Writer

My first disposition on being asked to write this article the week prior to my actual Kairos experience was that my trip would bring firsthand insight into this event so shrouded in mystery. All I knew about it was that no one talked about it, one was only allowed to go once (as a retreatant), and that I was signed up to be in the next batch of students that found its way into this mysterious spiritual journey. My journalistic instincts kicked in: I would be on the *inside!* I could expose all those "secret" details for the student body to observe.

And then I went on Kairos. My plans rapidly dissipated. I know what the reader unfamiliar with Kairos is

thinking: *This is just great. Now Kairos seems creepier than ever, and not even the newspaper will investigate it! I'm never going on that trip!*

Guess what? That's fine. Part of the beauty of Kairos is waiting until you're ready to experience it. But when you do, you'll find out a lot more about the student body around you—as well as the student within *yourself* than you could ever dream possible. Wariness is not only understood, but *expected*. As the Kairos motto goes, "Doubt the first—cry the second—laugh the third—live the fourth!"

The truth is that Kairos is an experience that not only should not be discussed, it cannot be discussed. There *are* details that can be known—Kairos is a four day retreat; there are retreatants that experience Kairos for the first time, leaders that direct those first-timers, and rectors that hand-pick and direct the leaders. There is prayer. There are secrets. There is a *lot* of fun, and there is a lot of discovering. But every experience for every person is so

unique that no blanket definition for what Kairos *is* can be developed.

This is not to say that Kairos is only for certain people. The heart of Kairos is the fact that our differences don't matter—since, that, to use a cliché, "we're all in this together."

Differences, however, are an integral part of Kairos. As sophomore Political Science and History major John Wyatt professed, "Kairos is the most life changing experience I've ever had. And every experience is different," he said, referring to the fact that he has gone on two Kairos retreats—once as a retreatant and once as a leader.

This is not an article to tell you to go on Kairos. That defeats the whole purpose of the retreat—a journey of self-discovery cannot be forced on anyone. It is merely to profess that Kairos has a profound effect upon the mind, body and soul.

And when you, dear reader, feel prepared to experience this condition for yourself, the bus will be waiting.

Puma Profile

RENEE RYBOLT

By Katherine Stembel, Co-Editor-In-Chief



Renee Rybolt (Photo courtesy of Rybolt)

so I'm very grateful," said Rybolt, who advocates the department's personal student-teacher relationships. "SJC is a great place to go for a Music degree because there are a lot of performing opportunities, it being a small school. The music professors are also excellent teachers with much knowledge about how to be a successful musician or teacher."

Rybolt would like to continue her study of Music in graduate school. She is interested in pursuing vocal performance, but has also given thought to branching off into choral conducting. She hopes to one day travel across Europe and have the opportunity to learn French, German, and Italian diction from each country's inhabitants.

Although she has already achieved marked success at Saint Joseph's College, Rybolt stays grounded through her faith and is excited about the future.

"God gave me my gift, and I feel like I should give back," Rybolt said.

"My possibilities are endless right now."



Nick Merkt (Photo by Bridget Callahan)

Houlding the Reins

Brent J. Houlding, *Opinions Editor*

Hey there, sports fans. How about that there Superbowl? Not bad. In fact, if you read on, you'll find it was (almost) perfect.

1. First, what would the big game be without commercials? You'll be pleased to learn that this editor won a cool single dollar bill betting with a buddy that the first commercial would feature beer. Not only was the victory monetarily sweet, it had asthetic value as well.

The commercial featuring a real rock in lieu of a fist in a rock, paper, scissors game was quite amusing. Other top ads included a E-Trade spot about things to do with one finger, a tutorial on how drinking Coke makes you an abysmal Grand Theft Auto player, and a FedEx ad that redeemed itself when a man got blasted to smithereens in the closing moments.

However, the clear-cut winner was the highly acclaimed commercial made by a fan and voted on by the visitors of NFL.com. Brett Favre made an appearance among mourning football fans commiserating the completion of another season, which made it all worthwhile.

2. All right, the game. Colts win. This is good. Almost optimal. I didn't lose a foolhardy

10-1 off bet against a Bear's victory made in September. The only way the game could have been better is if, instead of winning the MVP, Peyton Manning had been sniped by a disgruntled Jaguar fan (Note: this editor does not support terrorism. Unless it's against Peyton Manning. And perhaps Luc Longly. Didn't that guy just rub you the wrong way? Was that



Peyton Manning: Smug MVP and public enemy #1.

just me? I digress.) The highlight of the night was Rex Grossman turning out to be the fourth best QB shown throwing a pass. Peyton clearly comes in at number one, while Brett Favre's commercialized pass to himself and Phil Simms' highlight graphic beat out Rex for two and three respectively. Way to lose the game for your team buddy. As a Packer's fan, you're MVP in my book.

3. To use the common Indianan euphemism, it is "freezing balls"



Minds out of the gutter, people!

outside. Winter has arrived in full force, and due to high wind speeds, temperatures are indeed correct for causing an uncomfortable level of black ice to appear on certain reproductive organs.

I cordially invite any supporter of "global warming" to come spend an evening outside on the IM field, and then continue to tell me how our planet is doomed.

Al Gore, I will personally break my sworn RA oath and let you spend a night in Noll to see if you still wish to blame Republicans for flatulating enough to melt polar ice caps.

4. To conclude this week, a quick editorial on a few mishmash issues. Pitchers/Catchers report in 6 days! This year is here! House continues to be the best show on television. Wii Sports can cause a clinical level of addiction. Lastly: We mourn the passing of those in central Florida (hey, its not always jokes people. Sheesh.)

Opinions Page Critiques Photos; Gives Insight to Passable Football Game

By BJ Houlding, *Opinions Editor*



Super-above: Like most Bears fans, this one escaped from an insane asylum, hence the helmet.

Above: The Colts fans started drinking early as the Bears pulled to an early lead. They later regret this due to not remembering the finale and a killer hangover.



Super-above: Years later, Mark regrets being caught on film at the exact moment he realized his QB could be replaced by a capuchin with no ill effect.

Above: Do we really want to know what Dean Keller just did?



Below: "I pledge allegiance, to a losing team, 4th and 15 frequent..."

Do: Audition for Godspell in the Theatre, Thursday night.	Do: Be prepared to sing and dance as well as act in front of qualified judges of talent and ability.	Don't: Pretend John Rahe is Simon Cowell. He's much more of a Paula Abdul, really.
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Make a Choice... To Learn about Make A Choice

By Michael Buno, *Letter to the Editor*

Whenever the topic of MAC comes up around campus, people have mixed feelings, partially because there are many common misconceptions that I felt needed to be cleared up. To begin, as a freshman at Saint Joseph's College, I found myself in a bit of a quandary. There wasn't much to do on Thursday nights, and I didn't drink. I frankly got tired of seeing people around me drinking to a point where I thought up an idea for a club. This group was designed for people who wanted something to do on Thursday nights other than shelter themselves in their rooms. With the aid of a friend, I founded NAPS (or the Non-Alcoholic Pumas Society) for those at Saint Joe who do not drink. We had our members sign slips of paper indicating that as members of NAPS, they would not consume alcohol. This club went to the Student Association and was narrowly rejected for two reasons. For one, many felt the club was discriminatory in not allowing all members on campus to join. Also, the "Non-Alcoholic" part of NAPS was taken by many people to mean that all those who were not members of the group were perceived as alcoholics, which was absolutely not the club's intention.

NAPS reconvened the following week to change its policies. We changed our name to MAC (Make a Choice) based on the notion that every night you came to a club meeting, you were making a choice not to drink. We also threw out the idea that only non-drinkers could join; all students of Saint Joseph's College for the past two years have had the ability to attend any MAC meetings and still do today. These revisions, although they occurred after our original club idea was shot down, make more sense to us. We do not discriminate against those who do decide to drink. This is one philosophy that many to this day still do not comprehend. We understand other peoples' decisions, and in no way do we ever look down on anyone who does choose to drink. MAC meets every Thursday night at 8:00 and goes until about 10:00, but has the ability to last longer



Make A Choice's manifesto presented for the reading impaired.

because Cup o' Joe does not close until midnight. There are no forms to sign and no pledges to make. As a social club, we play board games and cards, listen to music, study, drink coffee, and whatever else grabs our interest at the time. The idea of MAC is simply to come and do whatever your heart desires. I personally hope this clears the confusion about what MAC is and what it stands for, and if



Buno threatens to pistol-whip someone for not learning about MAC.

anyone has any additional questions, please contact me at mbk5398@saintjoe.edu.

I personally invite each of you reading this to attend at least one MAC meeting this semester. In the past, in addition to meeting at Cup o' Joe, we've gone roller skating, bowling, and have organized a corn maze trip with a hayride and bonfire. All of these ideas were generated by people at MAC meetings, and we'd love to hear input from the entire population of SJC. It is people like you that make groups like MAC thrive, and we don't want to stop short of anything to make this next semester the best in the club's history.

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The key to being an indie hipster is pretending to be a deer. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.popmatters.com/music/concerts/o/images/of-montreal-tilly-050427.jpg>)

Man Gets Dumped, Whines For Eleven Minutes and Sets It All to Music

Everyone loves a good concept album once in awhile. In fact, many of the classic albums of our time are concept albums. Creating a great concept album is almost a rite of passage. *Hissing Fauna Are You the Destroyer* became a concept album in its own right, regardless of whether or not it was intended to be one.

Kevin Barnes becomes outwardly personal about his failed marriage. He often confesses his sadness through lines like "It's so embarrassing to need someone like I need you." In this way, *Hissing Fauna Are You the Destroyer* turned into a fifty-two-minute-long post break-up concept album. It sounds like a train wreck. The subject matter seems a little too dour for the infectious indie-pop band. Besides, who wants to hear a heartbroken man droning on and on about how he's pained? However, if you closely examine their discography, Of Montreal has been prepping their fans for this change for quite some time.

The album has a number of the definitive Of Montreal regulars that make you want to get up and shake your booty, but as mentioned above, there are a few numbers that challenge their norm. "The Past is a Grotesque Animal" is an eleven-minute-long song that really zeros in on Barnes' troubles. The song, from a music standpoint, is

harmonically static, but gives way to the words and troubled sounds Barnes' wishes to achieve. The track's eleven minutes give Barnes the time he needs to fully vocalize the situation.

Other personal tidbits are apparent through the tracks. "Bunny Ain't No Kind of Rider" is full of them. It explains a situation in which Barnes was being seduced by a woman at a club called Go. He makes his feelings apparent: "Eva, I'm sorry but you will never have me / to me you're just some faggy girl, and I need a lover with soul power / You ain't got no soul power." Other examples include "I spent the winter of a total breakdown while living in Norway" and "I spent too many nights praying to a saint that no one has heard of waiting for some high time to come again" in a song titled "The Sentence of Sorts in Kongsviger." The album is full of these ideas matched up to contagious pop music.

Barnes' genius is pop music. After this undertaking, it becomes evident that regardless of the subject at hand, he can still make the listener feel like dancing. So what if it's a post break-up concept album that you're dancing to? Everyone needs a little feel good music when they're left by their significant other.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:

Originality: 9

Lyrics: 9

Music: 9

Cover Art: 9

Total: 9/10

Little Miss Sunshine Brightens Days with Simple, Quirky Fun

By Gabriele Nichols, Staff Writer

A suicidal Proust scholar, a silent Nietzsche devotee, and a heroin-snorting senior citizen all get in a van...

It sounds like the start of a bad joke for intellectuals. In reality, it's just part of the personalities and weirdness found within *Little Miss Sunshine*. On the surface, the movie seems like another road trip movie in the same vein as *National Lampoon's Vacation* or *RV*. By the end, however, it manages to become an honest message on family and the true nature of success while still managing to remain completely hilarious.

The story is simple enough. Grade schooler Olive manages to gain entry, through a technicality, into the Little Miss Sunshine beauty pageant in California. Her father, a failing motivational speaker who thinks his big break is coming, is obsessed with success and offers to make the trip only if his daughter promises to win. The entire family must come along on the trip in one little Volkswagen van. This includes Olive's teenage brother Dwayne, the Nietzsche lover; her grandfather, the heroin addict; and her uncle Frank, the former number one Proust scholar. Trying to hold everything together is bedraggled mother Sheryl.

Such a setup could naturally lead either into a schmaltzy formulaic venture or a heartless and overly weird black comedy.



After the yellow hippie van of death runs down yet another quirky American family, it has a steamy sex scene with the car from *Knight Rider*. (Photo courtesy http://www.theculturebeat.com/wp-content/photos/9615_004.jpg)

However, the movie manages to avoid these missteps by treading a fine line, providing both warm fuzzy family moments between naturally strange, but not unrealistic, family conflict. The script by Michael Arndt, which is beautifully directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, knows how to balance all concerns so that by the end of the movie you want to spend even more time with this strange family. The writer and directors behind the movie are relative newcomers to the industry, but they know how effective simplicity can be in telling an honest story. They even manage to incorporate indie music without attracting the indie posturing many recent movies attempt.

Elevating the movie even further is an amazing cast, perfect from the young to the old. Greg Kinnear, Alan Arkin, and Toni Collette all give great

performances. However, especially effective are Steve Carell and Paul Dano, as both take their characters well past cliché. Carell plays Frank as a man who, while extremely sad, is still surprisingly wise, even if he does flaunt his intellectual status a little too often. Dano manages the difficult feat of making a character under a vow of silence both expressive and human, with teenage angst that avoids being annoying.

Incredibly, this offbeat and relatively friendly little independent comedy has managed a nomination for Best Picture. It's a movie that doesn't aspire to delusional levels of importance or bait for Oscars through tried and true award-winning formulas. Instead, it blazes its own trail and manages to achieve warmth and mirth without the schmaltz.

5 out of 5

She Got Up Off the Couch Should Sit Down, Read a Book

By Elizabeth Bessette, Staff Writer

I think I have established the fact that I love books, perhaps with a bit more ardor than normal people. To me, the ultimate book is a hardback with a smooth dust cover and more than 300 pages. So you can imagine my delight when I went to purchase my books for my contemporary American literature class and found about five different books that satisfy that description. We have already read one for class and seeing how I am too lazy to find another book to review, I thought this would be a smart time to start reviewing books that other people may have actually read.

My class first read a memoir by Haven Kimmel entitled *She Got Up Off the Couch*. The first thing besides the title that struck me as a bit strange was the picture on the front cover. A girl with curly pigtails, extraordinarily uneven bangs, and teeth with a rather prominent gap in the front stared out from the cover. Such an eccentric looking child could only be called Zippy. Zippy happens to be the main character and author. The book is dedicated to her mother who finally got up off the couch. Each



The fact that the couch is empty indicates that the woman in question has already gotten up, most likely for the purpose of making a sandwich. (Photo courtesy of <http://spin.phys.virginia.edu/~jem3w/thailand/couch.JPG>)

chapter is more or less its own little story, but nevertheless the stories are witty and well-written. It gives the reader a glimpse into the crazy world of the Jarvis family through Zippy's eyes.

This charming family has its problems, but their personalities seem to reflect those in every family. In one particular chapter called "Vacuum Cleaner," Zippy's grandmother is trying to get the attention of her father to

show him the new vacuum she just got. She calls his name at least twenty times as he carries on his own conversations completely ignoring her. Finally, at the end of the chapter she gains his attention but he decides it is time for his family to leave and walks out after only giving the new vacuum a cursory glance. After reading this chapter, I wondered if this book was about my family.

It's Time for Vatican III: Operation Making Catholicism Cool

By Joe Larson, *Co-Editor in Chief*

The Catholic Church needs to modernize to stay competitive in today's spiritual marketplace. Right now, uppity Protestant sects are winning the race to convert souls with their dancing bears, naked Frisbee golf, and LSD-induced orgies. It's a good time to be a Quaker. Back in the 1970s, the Catholic Church tried to fight back against these practices with Vatican II, a radical council that allowed priests to say Mass in the vernacular and wear parachute pants during Lent. Such gimmicks are no longer effective in today's complex society, which harbors an intense hatred for baggy pants and spoken English. That's why I plan to get the church back in the game with Vatican III. It will be similar to Vatican II, only updated to take into account new realities like hip-hop, the internet, and Jesus 2.0. He's just like regular Jesus, only his name is Mario Andretti and he rides a stegosaurus. It's these sorts of subtle changes that will help the post-Vatican III Catholic Church finally crush Protestants, Jews, and the ever-troublesome Jedi.

Predictably, Vatican III will work a bit differently than other church councils. First, the cardinals will get drunk and shoot bottle rockets at each other. Next, the Sistine Chapel will mysteriously burn down. Finally, the cardinals will buy more booze and bottle rockets. Somewhere in the process, a document of unparalleled theological importance will be produced and the pope will lose an eye. That's pretty much how the other Vatican Councils went, as well, which is the main reason cardinals are usually sworn to secrecy. The document produced through this time-tested method will be three hundred words long and will be written entirely in permanent marker on someone's face. Two hundred and fifty of those words will actually be

crude drawings, but at least everyone will finally understand how Cardinal Penis got his nickname.

After the novelty of Cardinal Penis has worn off, which admittedly could be several years, the Church will realize that the remaining fifty words of the three-hundred-word document contain orders for subtle but important changes to the basic tenets of the Catholic faith. First and foremost, the seven sacraments will be reduced to three: Baptism, Confirmation, and waffles. Even the godless Protestants will celebrate waffles, but they'll do it without the blessing of St. Jemima. The two remaining sacraments will be very different than they are today. Baptism will involve a Slip 'N Slide and the liberal consumption of Jack Daniels.

Confirmation will involve an eight-digit code to make sure you're not a spambot. This will finally bring the sacrament into line with the teachings of St. Paul and his first letter from a rich prince in Nigeria, which teaches that salvation require a valid e-mail address and large money orders made out to people you've never met.

Vatican III will also make some minor changes to the groups eligible for salvation. Dogs will be allowed into heaven. Alabamans won't. It's a fair trade if you think about it. Additionally, the poor and oppressed won't be the shoe-ins for salvation they once thought themselves to be. Jesus makes this clear in an often overlooked passage in the Gospel of Luke: "And then Jesus said unto the

poor, 'Take a shower and get a job, for God needs a richer and better-smelling tax base if he's ever going to finish his palace made entirely of racecars and naked women.' But the poor were unmoved, so Jesus fed them to his mighty stegosaurus, who suffered from indigestion for seven times seventy minutes before taking a mighty dump behind a bush." For everyone who just thought to themselves, "Wait a minute, stegosaurus are herbivores," I remind you that Jesus is the son of God and can feed his dinosaur whatever he wants. Also, kudos for not caring about the poor. It's exactly this kind of sentiment that will allow Catholicism 3.0 to bring the Church back into alignment with Jesus's original intention to use the downtrodden as a



Jesus smirks as he prepares to feed another batch of children to a nearby dinosaur. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.cob-net.org/cards/jesus-4kids250.jpg>)

supplemental food source for prehistoric animals.

Mass will also work a little differently after Vatican III. In the current post-Vatican II world, I've been to Mass once a week for the past 21 years and have yet to meet God. You'd think he'd show up just once and be like, "Hey, thanks for coming over. Make yourself at home. Chips and salsa are on the table." That's

another problem with church: a critical shortage of Mexican snack foods. Catholicism 3.0 will correct all of these shortcomings. Under the new system, if God doesn't show up, he'll be forced to pay a fine and serve a one-week suspension. It's unlikely that he'll miss a Mass, though, because the service will be moved to a more convenient day. When God picked Sunday to be the Sabbath, he failed to take into account how hard it is to wake up after smoking fifteen pounds of pot Saturday night. That's why Sunday Mass will be moved to Thursday afternoon. It won't be too much of an inconvenience for people's weekday schedules since all you'll have to do is show up, get your card punched, and maybe eat some chips and salsa. Alternately, if you don't

feel like lugging around a punch card, you can just show up at church, give God a high-five, and then head out the door.

It might sound like the high-five approach would make you look bad in the eyes of God. After Vatican III, you'll know for sure since God will be forced to disclose what he knows about you under the Freedom of Information Act. Catholicism 3.0

will allow you to check your salvation status just like you would your credit score or criminal record. Now you won't have to wonder whether or not he gave you credit for helping that old woman cross the street or deducted points for that time you accidentally nuked most of Bolivia. The salvation score check will let you know the old woman incident gave you two

points while the Bolivia incident only cost you one, mainly because Bolivia is full of poor people who fail to contribute to God's racecar and naked woman palace.

After Vatican III, there's a good chance God won't know about your sins in the first place thanks to recent changes in Congress. Everyone knows the Democrats hate warrantless surveillance in general and God in particular. They've had it in for him ever since he sided with Ralph Nader in the 2000 election. Thanks to the Democrats' heroic disregard for basic religious freedoms, God will be bound by the Constitution just like the rest of us. This makes sense because if Catholicism 3.0 teaches anything, it's that the true God is the God of America and maybe a few of the southern parts of Canada.

Vatican III will make other provisions to make God a more dependable bureaucrat. One of the most important rules of Catholicism 3.0 is that God must grant or deny all prayer requests in written form. Now when some professional football player says, "I'd like to thank Jesus for this win," a reporter can do a quick audit and respond, "Actually, Jesus denied your prayer request for a victory, but he did grant somebody else's request that you get viciously mauled by a pony." In short, the God of Catholicism 3.0 functions like a lottery ticket, only he's free, reusable, and incredibly vindictive. You might not win every time, but you can be sure that someone somewhere else did, and with any luck they were also praying for vicious pony mauulings.

Given the drastic improvements guaranteed by Catholicism 3.0, I plan to kick off Vatican III sometime next week. It will start by Friday at the latest assuming I can assemble enough bottle rockets and keep the meddling Jedi away.



A group of white rap stars show their support for the ghetto revival. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.webstudio22.com/websites/incrediblesweb/white%20men.jpg>)

The list of characters is amazing. There is 100-Proof, a white trash-looking rapper with a giant Mohawk; G-Child, a small girl who seems to have no confidence; Jon Boy; Shamrock, who has platinum teeth; and Jus Rhyme. Misfit Dior is a beautiful girl born and raised in London; VH1 flaunted her obvious sex appeal at every available opportunity until she was cut on

the second show due to her lack of rap talent. Sulee always seems to be "standing up for the women" of the show. He had a fling with Misfit and then beat her in the finals. Dasit was the first cut, a white rapper who always wore a shirt and tie. He was cut because he couldn't "just sit down and write sixteen bars in an hour."

My two favorite characters are most definitely Persia and John Brown, also known as "The King of the 'Burbs." Persia is a large angry girl who constantly attacks John Brown. On the first episode, Persia started yelling at John Brown and waved her extremely large, black dildo in his face, trying to get him to battle her during her drunken rage. She was tired of hearing about John Brown's ghetto revival. He never explains it, what it is, or what it means. He just goes on and on about the ghetto revival. What are you trying to revive? How can you revive the ghetto if you're king of the suburbs? His

incoherent babblings and rants about joining the ghetto revival has the whole house infuriated, and me rolling around, wiping tears from my eyes as I laugh at this obvious idiot. My new favorite pastime is yelling with my roommate, "I'm King of the 'Burbs! It's all about the Ghetto Revival! What's Pimpulating?!" These are John Brown's favorite catch phrases. These phrases are quickly dismissed and ridiculed by real rappers. To their credit, Persia and John Brown are two of the better rappers on the show.

White rapper stereotypes and funny saying drive the whole show. As far as a reality show goes, the series is horrible with no real purpose. Without John Brown, I see no real reason to watch these "white rappers" rap. Thankfully, Brown is absolutely delightful. If you are into rap history, rap music, or anything having to do with rap, you will probably enjoy this show much more than me. That being said, *The White Rapper Show* gets a 2 out of 5 jellies. "Halleluiah Holla Back Y'all!" (I love John Brown).

White Rappers Perpetuate Stereotypes, Fulfill Suburban Fantasies

By Roger Spitzer, *Staff Writer*

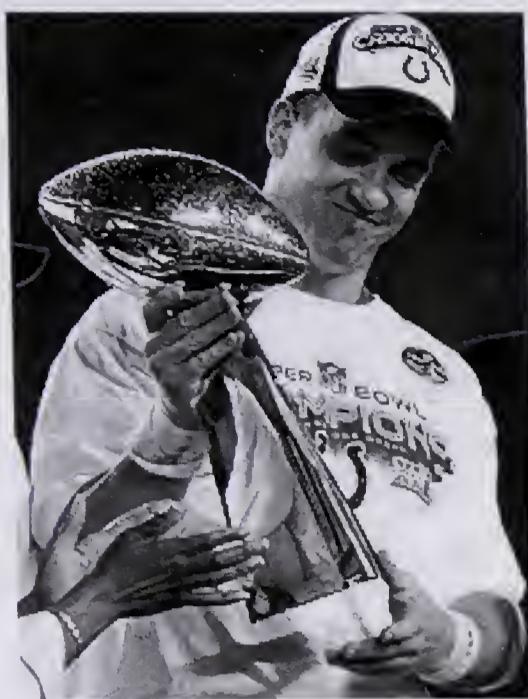
The White Rapper Show is VH1's newest sensation, featuring ten white rappers, straight from whatever "hood, thug streets" they come from, competing for \$100,000 and the right to be called the next great white rapper. That's right, this isn't *American Idol*. There is no record deal waiting, just respect and \$100,000.

VH1 is "is majorly concerned about rap's future" (VH1.com), so they decided to put the hopes of white rappers everywhere in the hands of legendary white rapper Michael "MC Serch" Berrin, whose repeated use of the word, "Aight," makes me want to throw things out my window. Then ten contestants are put through a series of missions that challenge their rap skills and overall knowledge of rap and its history. They stay in the "White House," a rundown building with cockroaches, broken furniture, and lots of alcohol. This is not the typical reality show with luxury items. They receive their

missions straight from Berrin, who sends them emails on a giant jar of mayonnaise. When it arrives, it shouts, "You've got Mayo" in the familiar voice of the AOL guy who says, "You got mail." It is a clever play on words, "You've got mail, yo," in case you missed the incredible genius behind the word play. Short quips like this are common throughout the show.

At the end of each show, the rappers on the losing team of the episode's challenge are given an hour to prepare a rap about the day and a given subject, like respect. The creator of the worst rap goes home. The rapper's green converse shoes, given to him or her by Berrin, are then thrown over an electric wire in the back of the White House.

Super Bowl XLI: Colts Defeat Bears, 29-14



Peyton savoring the Vince Lombardi Trophy. He was named MVP. (All photos and images in this article are from SuperBowl.com photo gallery).

By Andrew Costello,
Sports Editor

When the game clock expired during Sunday's matchup between the Colts and Bears, I was somewhat shocked, but glad to see what had transpired during the three hour, Super Bowl contest. I had been rooting for the Bears for most of the game, but once the fourth quarter started, I began to lose hope. It seemed to me that this game was Peyton Manning's and that he finally was going to get over the hump.

Super Bowl XLI was entertaining, for the most part. The first play of the game saw

Devin Hester return a touchdown after a multi-game drought. I could feel the excitement. I jumped up from my seat and emphatically jeered my roommate, a lifelong Colts fan. But my roommate was smart, for he reminded me of my past excitement once Ohio State's Ted Ginn Jr. returned a kickoff for a touchdown in the BCS National Championship game, a game which saw the Buckeyes get spanked by a much faster, more determined Florida team. I dismissed my roommate's warnings and knew that Brian

Urlacher and Thomas Jones would get the job done. But then Peyton Manning came on the field.

Going into the game, I figured that either Manning or Bernard Berrien would be the Most Valuable Players, considering how both were very explosive during the regular season. I was leaning more towards Bernard Berrien, because I wanted to see my Bears fan friends do the Super Bowl shuffle all over again and create a scene. But Manning had his day. The Colts quarterback threw for 247 yards, one touchdown, and an early interception. After the first quarter, the Colts scored on six drives, while the Bears only saw two successful trips to the red zone. Brian Urlacher and Thomas Jones both had good games (ten tackles and 112 yards, respectively), but were no match for the Colts, a team that severely elevated its game once the playoffs began. As the Colts shut down the Bears, they added to their aggregate point total.

But credit must be given to where credit is due. To be honest, it's hard for anyone not to be happy for Peyton Manning and the entire Colts team for their success this year. The team finally won "the big one," and made up for last year's early exit in the playoffs. The Colts, a very

"team-oriented" franchise, proved that meticulously studying your opponent's game plan and having charismatic leadership are great intangibles on any NFL squad. Although Peyton Manning is in danger of becoming an annoying poster child with all of his endorsement deals, he seems to be a great leader who knows the game and imparts knowledge upon his teammates. It was a great year for the Colts, and I am content with the display of the Vince Lombardi trophy somewhere in Indianapolis, the center of the heartland.

But cheer up, Bears fans. This team is going to be back, and they are going to get better. Even though Rex Grossman had a lackluster performance in the Super Bowl, the Bears have experience and depth within their quarterback system. Either "Sexy Rexy" is going to get better, or Brian Griese will lead this experienced team like he did in Denver during the post-Elway era. Even Urlacher supported his quarterback during the post-game press conference. True, the Bears didn't block well and gave up turnovers. That stuff happens in big games. This Bears squad is still new to having success in the playoffs. For some great teams, it takes a lot of playoff experience to become mentally strong. It took the Colts five straight playoff runs before they



finally made it to the Super Bowl, while for the Bears it only took two straight playoff runs and a coach who is only in his second year. This team has identified who its franchise players are and this team is going to be a perennial contender. They are going to keep winning the NFC North and earning early playoff privileges. The Bears have established themselves as the NFC elite, and have a few things to fix before they become something great. And, even more intriguing, the Bears were missing several key Pro-Bowler injuries that may have been the difference in this game. It is what it is, but the future is bright for all Chicago fans. The Bears aren't who we thought they were; they are something much better.

To say the least, I'll always savor this experience when I rethink my college memories. A



Colts cornerback Keith Hayden (26) had a 56-yard interception that put the nail in the coffin for the Bears.

Lady Pumas Hang Tough Against Lewis



By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College women's basketball team gave No. 7-ranked Lewis University all it could handle Saturday, but it was not quite enough to translate into a win, as the Lady Flyers left Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse with a 74-63 victory.

The Lady Pumas posted their best long-distance accuracy of the season in the first half, making 7 of 11 three-pointers (63.6 percent) in the first 20 minutes and 12 of 23 attempts from the floor (52.2 percent).

SJC trailed early, but battled back to take a 28-23 lead with 6:34 to go in the first half, following a three-pointer from Michelle Bova (Sr., Indianapolis, IN/Southport) and two more long

bombs from Allison Hughes (Jr., Perrysville, IN/North Vermillion).

The Flyers (19-2, 12-1 Great Lakes Valley Conference) rallied to tie the game at 28-28 following Darcee Schmidt's layup with 2:34 on the clock, but SJC countered with six straight points to move back in front, 34-28. LU's Laresha Hawkins knocked down a jumper to temporarily halt the rally, but Bova knocked down another triple just before the buzzer to send the Lady Pumas into halftime ahead, 37-30.

Lewis got things going once the second half began, scoring the first 12 points of the half to take a 42-37 lead. The Flyers extended their lead to as much as 11 midway through the period and never trailed again, as SJC was never able to get closer than four



LEFT: Allison Hughes (24) had a career-high 5 three-pointers and a game-high 27 points. ABOVE: Patience Meyer (44) looks for an open teammate. (Photos by Fr. Tim McFarland).

points the remainder of the contest. The marksmanship the Lady Pumas exhibited in the first half dissipated after the break, as SJC made just 7 of 23 shots (30.4 percent) in the final 20 minutes.

The Pumas (4-16, 1-11 GLVC) got a game-high 27 points from Hughes, who made 5 of 10 three-point attempts. Bova put up 15 points, while Patience Meyer (Jr., Vevay, IN/Switzerland County) scored 10. Hughes grabbed five rebounds to share the team lead with Julia LaBlanc (Jr., Brookfield, WI/Pius XI), and LaBlanc also shared the team lead in assists with Bova, as each had five.

Puma Softball Picked Eighth In Preseason Poll

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College softball team has been predicted to finish eighth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference this season. The annual Preseason Poll of the GLVC's head coaches was released Wednesday.

The Pumas finished last season 8-8 in GLVC play and 26-17 overall, setting a new SJC record for wins in a single season. The Pumas qualified for the GLVC Tournament as the No. 7 seed, and won a game in the GLVC Tournament for just the second time.

SJC also set single-season school records for hits (347), total bases (460), slugging percentage (.394), home runs (18), runs scored (163), runs batted in (147), stolen bases (87), and fielding percentage (.961).

Defending GLVC and Great Lakes Regional Champion Southern Illinois University Edwardsville assumed the top spot in this year's poll, collecting 142 total points and 10 of the 13

first-place votes. The University of Southern Indiana garnered 126 and two first-place votes to take the No. 2 spot, while Lewis University sits third with 120 points and one first-place vote.

SJC opens the season by playing 12 games on its annual Spring Break trip to Florida Mar. 4-10. The 2007 GLVC Tournament will be May 4-6 at the EastSide Centre in East Peoria, Ill.



The 2007 GLVC Softball Championship will be May 4-6 in East Peoria, Illinois. The Pumas hope to improve on their 26-17 mark last year and be a threat in the tournament. (Image by GLVCSports.com).

Track And Field Teams Compete At D2 Challenge

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College men's and women's track and field teams went up against some of the finest competition in Division II over the weekend, as a total of 54 provisional or automatic national qualifying marks were recorded at the Division II Team Challenge at the University of Findlay's Malcolm Athletic Center Friday and Saturday.

Among the championship-qualifying performances were two by SJC athletes. Allison Chappell (Sr., Lemont, IL) placed third in the high jump, clearing 5'5.75" to improve the provisional mark she set earlier in the season. The Lady Pumas scored 27.5 points to place ninth in the 12-team meet.

The top individual finish for the SJC women was recorded by Natasha Kinsey (Jr., Elkhart, IN/Memorial), who finished second in the triple jump with a mark of 33'8.75". The Lady Pumas got sixth-place finishes from Kathleen Sherburne (Sr., Fort Wayne, IN/Bishop Dwenger) in



Senior Allison Chappell improved her provisional national qualifying mark in the pole vault. Chappell looks to earn All-Conference honors later this month at the GLVC Indoor meet. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

the 200-meter dash (27.10), Ashley Moore (Jr., Clarksville, IN) in the 5,000-meter run (19:26.21), and Natasha Mills (Jr., Elkhart, IN/Memorial) in the shot put (39'3.75").

The SJC men's team, which finished 11th in the 12-team event with 14 points, got a provisional national qualifying mark from Kyle Lawson (Jr., Indianapolis, IN/Univ. of Indianapolis), who finished seventh in the 35-pound weight throw with a distance of 57'9.75".

The Pumas' top individual finish came from Eric Kramer (Sr., Holland, IN/Southridge), who clocked a time of 8.48 seconds to place third in the 60-meter hurdles. Grant Dean (Jr., Hillsboro, OR) placed sixth in the long jump (21'6").

Both teams travel to the DePauw University Indoor Invitational on Saturday.



Junior thrower Kyle Lawson (above) earned a provisional national qualifying mark in the weight throw. Lawson competed at the 2006 Outdoor Track and Field Championships last Spring. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).



Puma Volleyball Profile: Eryn Speed

By Andrew Costello, Sports Editor



Eryn Speed was one of five seniors on the Volleyball team. She started all four years and recorded a plethora of digs for the Pumas. She is from Cincinnati, Ohio. (Photo by Sports Information.)

1. Age? 21

2. Browns or Bengals? Who-Dey...Bengals

3. Thoughts on being hypnotized by Daniel James.... Was the craziest thing I have ever done

4. Proudest moment as a Puma: All of the friendships I have made with people I will never forget

5. Hidden Talents? Very good soccer player

6. Favorite Pastime? Hanging out with all my friends

7. Role Model? My parents

8. One reason why Ohio is better than Indiana.... Better food

9. Favorite Movie? Love and Basketball

10. Favorite Beverage: Dr. Pepper

11. Any obstacles you have overcome? Becoming a collegiate athlete with my height

12. Favorite Quote: "Every story has an end. But in life, every ending is just a new beginning."

Air Gordon?

Tony Stewart or Jimmie Johnson?

What happened to Ryan Leaf?

Think you know Sports? Write for the Observer.

Send articles to ack5427@saintjoe.edu

Men's Basketball Confirms Home Court Advantage

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

Facing few challenges until the game's final minutes, the Saint Joseph's College men's basketball team took another step up the Great Lakes Valley Conference East Division ladder Saturday, defeating Lewis University, 82-74, at Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse.

The Pumas (12-8, 7-5 GLVC), who improved to 9-1 at home, are now second in the East Division standings, trailing Northern Kentucky University by a 1/2-game.

SJC opened the game looking intent on making short work of the Flyers (12-9, 7-6), scoring the first 14 points of the contest. Lewis finally got on the board with 14:27 on the clock after Jason Genova sank a free throw, and scored the next seven points before a bucket by SJC's Brandon Mayse (So.,

Centerville, IN) with 12:21 to play in the half.

Lewis continued to battle back, narrowing the deficit to 20-18 after scoring eight straight points, but a three-point play by Mayse and a steal and layup by Matt Comparato (Sr., Carmel, IN/Assumption Coll.) helped restore some of the Pumas' advantage. Mayse and Comparato sparked a 25-6 run to close the half, which was capped off by a buzzer-beating three-pointer from Matty Bush (Jr., Valparaiso, IN/Morgan Township). SJC went into halftime with a commanding 45-24 lead.

SJC led by as many as 27 points in the second half, and held a 75-58 lead with 2:19 to play, at which time both teams sent in their reserve units to play out the clock.

The Flyers' backups, however, managed to make a game of it,

putting together a 14-3 run to leave the score at 78-72 with 54 seconds to go. Ronald Coleman (Jr., South Holland, IL/Thornridge) stepped up in the final seconds to halt the rally, making four straight free throws.

Coleman ended his day with game highs of 26 points and 11 rebounds. Four other Pumas scored in double figures, as Comparato totaled 14, Mayse scored 11, and Bush and Jonathan Pittman (Sr., Massillon, OH/Washington) each scored 10. Andrew Helmer (Fr., Highland, IN) led SJC with a career-high five assists.

Brandon Dagans scored 21 points to lead Lewis. Genova and Dustin Warfield each put up 13 points, and Cam Jones provided 11 off the bench.



Matt Comparato (5) has proved to be a consistent starter, while Matty Bush (22) has become a proficient three-point shooter in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.



The Pumas hope this year's GLVC Tournament earns them a trip to the Big Dance in March. (Image by GLVCsporst.com).

Paulsen named Honorable Mention All-American By Football Gazette

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Information Director

Saint Joseph's College's Dan Paulsen (Sr., Portage, IN) has been named as an Honorable Mention selection to the 2006 NCAA Division II All-America Football Team by *Don Hansen's Football Gazette*.

Paulsen became eligible for All-America honors by virtue of his selection to the *Gazette's* Division II All-Northwest Region Second Team. He set SJC records for receptions (82) and receiving yards (1,121) this season, ranking in the top three in the nation in both categories. He also set single-game school records for catches (14) and yards (237) in the GLFC Championship-clinching 24-23 victory over Tiffin on Nov. 11. He was a First Team All-Great Lakes Football Conference selection.

Paulsen is one of 165 players from the 150 football-playing schools in Division II to earn some form of All-America honors. This is the second straight year an SJC player has been so honored, as Kevin Rees '06 made the *Gazette's* Division II All-America Third Team last season.

Don Hansen's Football Gazette is a national publication covering all levels of small-college football. The *Gazette* has selected All-America and Preseason All-America teams since 1988. The entire listing of the All-Region Teams can be found at www.pittstategorillas.com/footballgazette.

The Movie Musical: Dead or Alive?

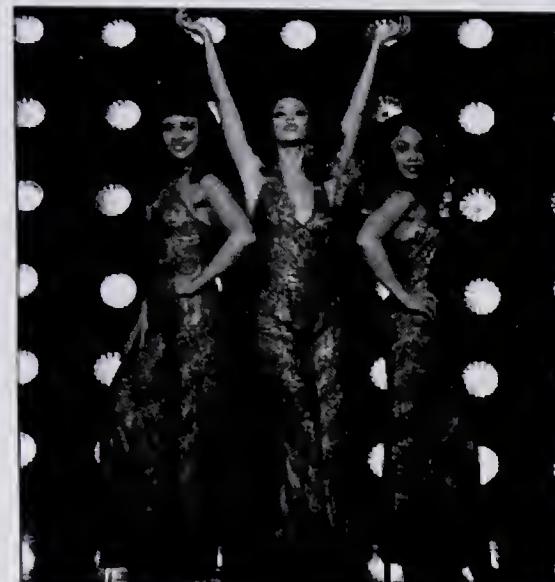
Popular
Dissent
with Danny Waclaw

What happened?

Tuesday, January 22, came and went, and much to the public's surprise, the one universally loved film of 2006, the hit movie musical *Dreamgirls*, did not receive a nomination for best picture. The people were speechless; how dare the Academy refuse to acknowledge such an incredible and refined movie, the public wants to know.

The American movie musical has long held a fascination with moviegoers since *Singin' in the Rain*. Everyone loves them, and yet entertainment has taken a turn away from the glitz and glamour of old Hollywood and toward the hyperreality of the lives of movie stars and random faux celebrities.

Some may see the movie musical, however, as a fake extension of the original Broadway musical, and often this proves to be true to a point. After all, films are constructed from one point of view, that of the director. In essence, films are simulations of reality; they cannot replicate the possibility



The Dreams rock out with disco fever in the hit movie musical *Dreamgirls*.

(Courtesy of <http://www.dreamgirlsmovie.com>)

for improvisation that the stage provides. They focus on one way of telling a story and not on the story itself.

The movie musical, however, stands out as a way for the masses to enjoy that which the privileged (financially or geographically) have at their disposal on a daily basis. Not everyone can go to New York to see *The Phantom of the Opera* on a whim, but anyone can go to a Blockbuster.

There seems still to be something missing from the experience, though, and perhaps today's reality-ob-

sessed John Q. Public has realized this. The death of a genre, however, does not seem to be something that will happen anytime soon. The movie musical has become a novelty, as the Academy reminds us, and not a fact of life as it was in the past.

In the end, then, it's a little understandable that the *Dreamgirls* team will not be holding its breath when the envelope is opened, but that does not change the fact that we might be a little sad.

Oh well. We can still dream, can't we?

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for Feb. 8 - Feb. 15
(219) 866-2222

fountainstonetheaters.com

Dreamgirls

Fri: 4:20, 6:30, 9:00 (PG-13)
Sat: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
Sun: 2:00, 4:20, 6:40
Mon-Th: 4:20, 6:40

Epic Movie

Fri: 5:10, 7:10, 9:10 (PG)
Sat: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10
Sun: 3:10, 5:10, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:10

Charlotte's Web

Fri: 4:50 (G)
Sat: 2:50, 4:50
Sun: 2:50, 4:50
Mon-Th: 4:50

The Pursuit of Happiness

Fri: 6:50, 9:00 (PG-13)
Sat: 6:50, 9:00
Sun: 6:50
Mon-Th: 6:50

Night at the Museum

Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG)
Sat: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

Hitcher

Fri: 5:20, 7:20, 9:10 (R)
Sat: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:10
Sun: 3:20, 5:20, 7:20
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:20

Book Jacket of the Issue!

Honored by both Oprah and the Dalai Lama, Rafe Esquith has become renowned for his unique teaching style and his love of education past the grip of governmental regulation and typical grade school education. In his latest book *Teach Like Your Hair's On Fire*, Esquith explains how he turned a Los Angeles neighborhood afflicted by gangs and guns into a beacon of first-rate education with his Hobart Shakespeareans group that transforms a classic play into a rock opera. His unique teaching style has helped him garner the first National Medal of the Arts for a school teacher in America. Read on to discover how life changes when teachers combine enthusiasm and different perspectives with basic curricula.

Photo and info courtesy of <http://www.amazon.com>

TEACH Like Your Hair's On Fire

The Methods and Madness Inside Room 56
RAFE ESQUITH WINNER OF THE AMERICAN TEACHER AWARD



Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)

Stop stressing out and feel the love. You will be able to finish your schoolwork once you come back to reality. Treat yourself to some chocolate—it is the season of candy!

Pisces (Feb. 18- March 20)

Okay Forrest, we all know that "life is like a box of chocolates." Stop freaking out when things do not go as planned. It is time to stop living in the future and live for today.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

All right, Cupid, stop playing matchmaker if you still want to have friends. Start focusing on your own love life for a change. Remember you cannot make anyone else happy until you are happy within.

Taurus (April 20- May 19)

Take off that hideous black shirt and start celebrating this wonderful Hallmark holiday. It will not kill you to share some love. You might even start to like it if you choose to give it a chance.

Gemini (May 20- June 20)

Someone has a secret admirer, and it is who you would least expect. Stop trying to solve this mystery and have fun with this challenge. Remember opposites do attract, so give it a try.

Cancer (June 21- July 22)

This is not the time to be fighting with the one you love. It is time to see both sides; remember it takes two to tango. If you keep up this negative attitude, you will be spending Valentine's Day solo.

Leo (July 23- Aug. 22)

Feeling glum? It is time to curl up with a box of tissues and a Lifetime movie. We all could use a good cry. Yes, even if you are a happen to be male, be secure with your masculinity—the ladies like it!

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept. 21)

You are spending too much time with your honey and neglecting your pals. Try showing your friends half the love you have been showing you-know-who for a change. Your friends will thank you.

Libra (Sept.-Oct. 22)

You are not a loser because you are single. Sometimes the best Valentine's gifts come from your friends. Plan a hot date with your crew, which is always more fun than being with your boo.

Scorpio (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)

This is the time to focus on those who need you. Open your eyes and see how upset your best pal is. You may not have all the answers, but you can always give some love by lending an ear.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 20)

Put the chocolate down, love bunny, and get some Vitamin C A.S.A.P. Your body is run down and needs rest pronto. Do not neglect your body, or you could end up in the hospital with mono.

Capricorn (Dec. 21- Jan. 19)

No, it is not Groundhog's Day, so why is your life so repetitive? You need a change of pace before you have a nervous breakdown. Try something new like a trip to Merrillville or Lafayette to go ice skating.

On the Town!

Lily Allen

- Who? The British pop superstar supports her album *Alright, Still on tour*.
- When? 7 PM CST on Thursday, February 8, 2007.
- Where? Metro in Chicago, IL..
- Tickets are available through ticketmaster.com.

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to dwj5079@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

My dentist had cancer, so maybe that's why his nose hair is finally gone.

I'd really like to eat kangaroo so I can feel it kicking me on the way down.

Hey, I have a boyfriend, and his name is Standards. Maybe you should meet him sometime.

They need more Macs in the Observer office. Well, maybe at least one Mac.

Don't eat at the new Mexican place; not only was the food undercooked, but I got diarrhea.

Nota Bene

"Self-love seems so often unrequited."

the narrator in Anthony Powell's novel *The Acceptance World*